

Remarks

This is a response to the final office action mailed January 4, 2005. Claims 1-33 are currently pending in the application. Claims 18-25 were allowed by the Examiner in the first Office Action.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-17, 26-28 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,712,658, issued to Arita et al. (hereinafter "Arita"). The Examiner also rejected claims 4 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita in view of Japanese Patent Publication JP 409080372A to Tsutomu (hereinafter "Tsutomu").

Further, the Examiner rejected claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,873, issued to Nolan (hereinafter "Nolan"). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,740,559, issued to Scanlon, (hereinafter "Scanlon"). Finally, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,664,949, issued to Amro et al. (hereinafter "Amro").


By way of this Response, Applicant cancels claims 1-17 and 26-33 to allow claims 18-25 to proceed to issuance. Applicant reserves the right to pursue and will pursue claims 1-17 and 26-33 by way of a continuation application.

Applicant believes that all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge the \$60.00 one month extension of time fee and any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978 -- a duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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